



## MAKIKI/ LOWER PUNCHBOWL/TANTALUS NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 10

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING ST., ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813

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### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006 MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair John Steelquist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Steelquist, Charles Carole, John Bigay, Gary Fujitani, Philip Hauret, David Heulitt, Richard Kawano (7:05 p.m.), Norma Koenig, Susan Lai Young, Allan Lee, Sam Mitchell, Martin Schiller, Craig Thistleton and Joseph Zuiker.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chuck Lee and Brian Woo.

**GUESTS:** Tracy Okubo (Department of Human Services), Governor Linda Lingle's representative), Senator Gordon Trimble, Shawn Hamamoto (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office staff), Captain Warren Aki (Honolulu Fire Department), Major Randy Macadangdang, Captain Thomas Grossi, Lt. Bennet Martin and Sgt. Costa (Honolulu Police Department); Cat Sawai (Board of Water Supply), Pat Lee (Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP)), Frances Klema, Sonia Trimble, Phyllis Britten (TCA), Kaipo Meinecke, Tracy Miyahara and Anthony Smet (MOCA), Ray Suchi (MHCA), Georgianna Lagoria (The Contemporary Museum), Sue Hillmann, and K. Russell Ho (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

**FILLING OF THE VACANCY FOR SUBDISTRICT 1-** Chair Steelquist asked if there were any volunteers for Subdistrict 1, which is mauka of Wilder Avenue and the Tantalus area. As there were no volunteers to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict 1, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, 2006 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-** There were no corrections made. The minutes of the March 16, 2006 regular Board meeting were approved as circulated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT-** Treasurer Martin Schiller reported that as of April 14, 2006, there was an ending balance of \$1119.59 in the Operating budget, \$2894.00 remaining in the Publicity budget (pending payment of the printing and mailing costs of the newsletter) and \$4.22 remaining in the Refreshment budget. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

**Honolulu Police Department (HPD)-** Major Randy Macadangdang introduced himself and the other officers, Captain Thomas Grossi and Lt. Bennet Martin. Major Macadangdang wanted to partner with the community to improve the Makiki District's quality of life. Chair Steelquist mentioned the top community concerns- thefts from autos, the back up on Lunalilo Street, graffiti and racing on Tantalus, which has stopped temporarily due to the road closure from the recent flooding. Major Macadangdang promised that HPD would do their best. Chair Steelquist invited them to return in the future. Lt. Martin handed out the following statistics for March 2006:

1. There was 1 robbery (+1 from last month), 17 burglaries (+8 from last month), 20 unauthorized entries of motor vehicle (UEMV) (+4 from last month), 9 auto thefts (-13 from last month), 1 aggravated assault (same as last month), 5 simple assaults (-2 from last month), 100 motor vehicle collisions (MVC) (+12 from last month), 13 D.U.I. (-4 from last month), 2 sex assaults (+2 from last month), 9 family offenses (+3 from last month), 2 drug offenses (same as last month), and 4 graffiti (+2 from last month).

In March burglaries were up, graffiti was up and UEMV was up. Although the "high visibility" patrols help, the parking garages inside the condos are hard to see. They are trying.

2. On Tuesday a Citizens Patrol was started with four or five people. They met at Makiki District Park at 6:00 p.m.
3. The night before last they made an auto theft arrest on Kewalo Street. Due to good police work and quick response time they were able to pick up the evidence.

4. There were three males on Pali Highway doing graffiti. Makiki officers assisted District 5 in making two arrests. When Board member Norma Koenig asked the ages, HPD responded that they were juveniles 15 – 16 years old. One was caught a year and a half ago at Stevenson Middle School doing a mural 8 feet by 25 feet. He was 35 years old and said “I just want to be an artist.” HPD responded that he could be an artist somewhere else. There is a “bona fide graffiti artist” working for the Contemporary Museum. A meeting attendee raised her hand.
5. HPD mentioned the Tantalus roadwork. The area will be closed (for local traffic only) for about four months. At least, it will slow down racing.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. When Board member Richard Kawano asked about the Citizens Patrol, Lt. Martin mentioned that people came from Sheridan Street and Kalakaua housing. Different Patrols do different things. One group got paint for the bus stops from Oahu Transportation Services (OTS) and paints over graffiti at bus stops on their walk around. One person constructed a 6-foot pole with a sharp edge at the end to scrape off stickers on signs. One person sprays on a product that takes off graffiti. They are the “eyes and ears” of the neighborhood and call 9-1-1 to report suspicious behavior. As to UEMV patrols, when Lt. Martin was in the area 12 years ago it was difficult to get residents out walking on a regular basis. When they get bigger, they could come to the Neighborhood Board and report on their experiences.
2. When Board member John Bigay asked the Honolulu Police Department (HPD)’s position on running the red light, they replied that they testified in favor of the bill in the Legislature.
3. When Board member Craig Thistleton asked if the graffiti was gang-related, HPD replied that it was mostly individuals. Sometimes, they work in teams. The age range runs from teenagers, “just having fun,” to 35 year old adults. HPD replied that graffiti was a priority and they will be stepping up activity.
4. When Board member Gary Fujitani asked about people sleeping overnight at parks and HPD testifying for the repeal of criminal trespassing in public parks, they replied that they have other laws they can use. Although they gave out over 100 trespass-warning citations, they had less than 5 arrests. They can use park closure rules. They had over 70 arrests for illegal camping at Ala Moana Park.

Chair Steelquist thanked HPD.

**Honolulu Fire Department (HFD)-** Captain Warren Aki, Makiki Station, handed out the written report and highlighted the following:

1. There were a lot of flood/pump evacuations due to the rain. In April 2006, there were a total of 86 calls for service: 8 fires, 48 medical emergencies and 30 miscellaneous service calls. There were no major or unusual incidents.
2. Fire Safety Tip: Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and the second major cause of death among older adults. If you are cooking and must leave the kitchen, even only for a few minutes, turn off the stove. Keep a fire extinguisher (with a minimum rating of 2A10BC) in or near your kitchen and learn how to use it. Inspect the extinguisher regularly to ensure that it has not expired.

There were no questions.

Chair Steelquist thanked Captain Aki.

**Board of Water Supply (BWS)-** (7:25 p.m.) Cat Sawai reported the following:

1. One water main break on Ward Avenue on March 10.

2. When it rains heavily, our pumpage drops because people don't water their lawns, wash their cars, or do other heavy water consumption outdoor activities. For example, as of March 8th, we were pumping 127.28 million gallons per day (mgd), down from last year's 146.43 (mgd).
3. The Board of Water Supply (BWS) has owned the Nuuanu dam since 1919. It has passed inspection by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The current water level is 31 feet with a 60 feet spillway. For the last ten years the water level has not exceeded 43 feet.
4. Board of Water Supply (BWS) is proposing a rate increase. There will be a public hearing on May 15th. They are proposing a 10-15 percent increase, from \$2.50 to \$3.70 per household, for the first year of a multi-year rate increase. For the past 11 years, there has been no increase. However, there have been increased costs for operation and maintenance, like labor and fuel costs.

Comments followed.

Vice Chair Carole asked for a breakdown of what the increases are for. There is no extra City funding. Board member Fujitani mentioned that Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are funded by bonds. When Board member Thistleton asked if the heavy rains recharged the aquifers, Sawai mentioned that there was some benefit to the recent rains, but it takes a long time for aquifers to recharge. When Board member Bigay asked if the weight of the water could add to the number of main breaks, Sawai replied that they have studied the causes of breaks and indirectly that could be a factor. Also, the type of soil and the ground shifting contribute. When Board member Kawano asked if the Nuuanu reservoir was over an aquifer, the answer was "no." Chair Steelquist requested more information before the hearing on May 15.

Chair Steelquist thanked Sawai.

**Residents' Concerns-** Chair Steelquist received one call about graffiti on Thurston Avenue.

#### **NETWORKING OF NEIGHBORHOOD BOARDS:**

**Makiki Stream-** When Board member Kawano asked if, during the recent heavy rains, it was the Makiki Stream that overflowed, Chair Steelquist answered in the affirmative.

**Sidewalk improvements-** No report.

**Pawaa Park-** No report.

**Makiki Community Plan-** Chair Steelquist mentioned that he received an e-mail from Neighborhood Assistant Ho that the City Auditor requested a copy of the Makiki Plan, which is at the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP). There were other plans, A, B and C, to look at.

**Traffic and Transit-** (7:35 p.m.) Pat Lee, Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTCP), distributed a newsletter. They have worked on various alternates and have locations of stations. By June/July, they should have the cost/ridership figures and would like to give a presentation.

When Chair Steelquist mentioned that the Ala Moana Neighborhood Board heard about the recent removal of bus stops on Kapiolani Boulevard, Lee explained that although TheBus is an award-winning system, it gets slowed down by too many bus stops. Chair Steelquist mentioned that they removed the mid-block stops and the bus stops after going through an intersection. He requested James Burke of Oahu Transit Services (OTS) for information about any proposed removal of bus stops on Beretania Street and S. King Street, bordering the Makiki District, before making any final changes.

Vice Chair Carole reported that at the Oahu Metropolitan Planning Organization (OMPO) meeting, they moved the Pensacola/Piikoi coupling project, after a letter from Senator Carol Fukunaga, from the 2006-2015 plan to the 2016-2030 plan. Department of Transportation Services (DTS) has not done any studies yet, but would do a Board presentation before they do. We should thank Senator Fukunaga for her letter.

Chair Steelquist mentioned that Rod Haraga, Director of the Department of Transportation (DOT), said that the switching of the directions for Pensacola and Piikoi Streets in under the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) and Chair Steelquist added that the DOT might be more concerned with the University area. Vice Chair Carole added that at the OMPO Policy meeting, Director Haraga was stressing the "safety issue."

Chair Steelquist thanked Lee for offering to come back in July to do a presentation.

Board member Kawano asked for clarification on the reversing of the directions of Pensacola and Piikoi Streets.

Chair Steelquist mentioned that past the Makiki fire station (mauka) on Piikoi Street, the City is proposing posting no parking signs and the removal of eight to twelve parking spaces, because of one person's complaint. They justify this action for "line of sight" safety reasons. The Board would like to be involved in the discussion before the removal of the parking spaces, which are at a premium in Makiki.

**Board member Joe Zuiker motioned and Board member Koenig seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 opposed the proposed removal of eight parking spaces on Piikoi Street above Wilder Avenue. The motion carried, 12-0-1. Board member Bigay abstained.**

#### **ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

**Senator Carol Fukunaga-** Senator Fukunaga could not attend the meeting.

**Senator Gordon Trimble-** Senator Trimble distributed his newsletter and a report on the recent wastewater spill and reported the following:

1. He mentioned that there were fifteen days left in the Legislative session.
2. The Ala Wai sewage spill was not a "sewage spill," but a "planned dump." Dr. Bruce Anderson, the former Director of the Department of Health (DOH) went swimming at Ala Moana beach last Sunday and he's still alive. A Board member swam three times a week after the spill and he's still alive.
3. Senate Bill 23 85 allowed the installation of the "red light cameras." It started out as the Governor's "pedestrian safety" bill and went to the House where Representative Joe Souki added the cameras. It went to conference committee. Honolulu Police Department (HPD) would enforce the bill and revenue would go to the counties. There were higher penalties for crosswalk violations.

When Board member Zuiker asked the number of cameras, Senator Trimble answered that the State passes the bill to allow it to happen, not necessarily the mechanics of the camera system. In general, there would be a system that would be triggered when a vehicle enters an intersection after a red light. The camera would record the image of the car and the time. Some communities have sound on their cameras.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. When Board member Kawano asked about affordable housing and the homeless, Senator Trimble mentioned that there are many bills and he does not know what will come out. He is not running for office and this is an election year.
2. Concerning the report on the sewage spill, a Board member mentioned that in Hawaii we have a lower threshold for certain bacteria.
3. When Vice Chair Carole asked about tax relief for lower income people, Senator Trimble replied probably not.

4. When Board member Kawano asked about the "big budget surplus," Senator Trimble mentioned that the State budget surplus might not be really there. In lean times, they restricted budgets and have unfunded liabilities, deferred maintenance and Hawaii Government Employees Association obligations.

There were no further questions.

Chair Steelquist thanked Senator Trimble.

**Representative Sylvia Luke-** No representative was present.

**Representative Brian Schatz-** No representative was present.

**Governor's Linda Lingle's representative-** Tracy Okubo distributed the Governor's newsletter and mentioned that she could take back concerns. She mentioned financial assistance and homeless shelters, but not about the homeless on Sand Island.

There were no further questions.

Chair Steelquist thanked Governor's representative Okubo.

**Councilmember Rod Tam-** (7:59 p.m.) Shawn Hamamoto distributed Councilmember Tam's newsletter and was available for questions.

1. Board member Zuiker commended his office for responding to reported hazardous conditions. On the Board of Water Supply (BWS) side of Punchbowl and Beretania Streets, there is a "pothole from hell." It was repaired almost immediately.
2. Vice Chair Carole mentioned that on the Keeaumoku Street, near the Makiki Library, the bushes were cut.
3. A resident mentioned the paving on Makiki Street, mauka of Wilder Avenue. She requested that when the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) repaves Makiki Street, that they repaint the centerline "off-center" to allow more space on the parked cars side.
4. Board member Kawano requested that on Wilder Avenue, Ewa-bound, at the Makiki Village Market, that there should be no parking, so traffic does not have to wait for a person turning left into the Makiki Village Market.

Chair Steelquist thanked Hamamoto.

**Councilmember Ann Kobayashi-** No representative was present.

**Mayor Mufi Hannemann's representative-** No representative was present.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Representative from the Department of Transportation Services (DTS) to Update Plans for the Makiki District and the Switching of Directions for Piikoi and Pensacola Streets-** This item was previously discussed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Makiki Tantalus Recreation Area-** Resident Phyllis Britten reported that they are trying to get Tantalus to be a historical road with a National designation.

Chair Steelquist thanked Britten.

**Makiki District Library-** The Library is boarded up and they are working on it. There was some discussion about using the second floor for the library and the third floor for a computer lab/learning center, community and senior center. Basement. The third floor is half a floor on the Diamond Head side. This idea has an endorsement by Tracy Miyahara's group and Board member Koenig's computer group. There was discussion about writing a letter to invite someone to discuss building plans now and a computer center, a reading room (library) and a community center.

**Vice Chair Carole motioned and Board member Koenig seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 send a letter to the Mayor requesting someone to explain and discuss the plans for the Makiki Library. The motion carried, unanimously, 13-0-0.**

**Makiki District Park-** Board member Fujitani asked what were the plans for the Makiki District Park?

**Board member Koenig motioned and Board member Sam Mitchell seconded that someone from the City come and present the vision for Makiki District Park. The motion carried, unanimously, 13-0-0.**

Board member Schiller suggested one letter.

**Contemporary Art Museum Construction-** (8:25 p.m.) Georgi Lagoria mentioned that they re-submitted the application for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP). The Board received a three-inch thick binder. Tracy Miyahara offered to deliver the information on a CD. Lagoria offered to make a presentation at the next Board meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Wayne Sasaki, from the Makiki Community Association asked for a public hearing in the community in the evening, so more residents can attend. The public hearing is scheduled for May 19. The Contemporary Art Museum was agreeable to move the May 19 meeting back.

The Board decided to host a community presentation by the Contemporary Art Museum on Thursday, May 4, two weeks before its May 18 regular Board meeting. Chair Steelquist offered to set up the Special Board meeting and will notify everyone when and where the meeting would be held.

**Board member Koenig motioned and Board member Fujitani seconded that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 send a letter to Henry Eng, Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) stating that the Board supports the community's request to hold the public hearing, scheduled for May 19, 2006, on the Contemporary Museum's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) in the community, in the evening. The motion carried, 11-2-0. Board members Lai Young and Schiller voted "No."**

**Pig Damage and Population in the Koolau Mountains-** (8:57 pm.) Chair Steelquist reported that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) might re-open pig hunting season. Hunting with only dogs and knives is allowed, no guns. Board member Thistleton mentioned that pigs are a threat to public health.

**Makiki Flooding-** (9:03 p.m.) The Board asked if there were a regular cleaning schedule or the canal?

**Makiki Heights Care Home-** No report.

**1214 Matlock Street-** Board member Kawano reported that there was nothing new.

**Bulky Item Pick-up-** Concerning bulky items, Board member Koenig mentioned Magazine Street in the back.

**Support for Roosevelt High School-** No report.

**Thomas Square Park closing at 10:00 p.m.-** Chair Steelquist mentioned that the Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 would like to vote on this at the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Planning and Zoning-** Committee Chair Carole mentioned that when we talk about planning, we should think about the melting of the polar ice. Dr. Craven believes that in 50 years, the sea level would rise 10 feet. We should make studies for 5 feet and 10 feet. A Board member suggested that we could find topographic maps of Oahu by the Army Corp of Engineers.

**Transportation-** No report.

**Health, Safety, and Wellness-** Board member Kawano mentioned that he wants to have a committee on the homeless issue.

**Newsletter-** Committee Chair Zuiker reported that the newsletter was received in the mail today.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Chair Steelquist announced several materials. These and other materials were made available for review by interested persons.
2. The next Makiki/Lower Punchbowl/Tantalus Neighborhood Board No. 10 regular meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2006 at the Makiki District Park, Arts and Crafts Building at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT-** Hearing no objections, Chair Steelquist adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.

Submitted by K. Russell Ho, Neighborhood Assistant